

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
February 22, 2010

DRAFT

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer
Excused: Paterson

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Keane seconded to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2010 Special meeting as presented. The motion passed. Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2010 meeting as presented. The motion passed.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, spoke in favor of retaining the second opportunity for public comment in the Town Council Rules of Procedure.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, asked if the Potter property was sold in a competitive bidding process and spoke in favor of retaining the second opportunity for public comment in the Town Council Rules of Procedure.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, urged members to modify the rules for political signs to include street rights of way.

Carol Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road and Vice Chair of the Commission on Aging, presented a communication from the Commission indicating their support for reserving the space at the Wellness Center for senior health and wellness services and their support for expanding the social worker position to a full-time licensed clinical social worker. (Statement attached) Ms. Pellegrine also spoke in favor of political signs on private property and against their placement on public property.

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Report attached

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The Town Manager also reported that Mayor Paterson is recuperating nicely and will be back soon. In response to questions, the Town Manager will ask the Transportation Advisory Committee to provide an interim staff report on the effects of a one school solution at Southeast School on Rte 89.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Keane seconded to move Item 4, Presentation: Youth Service Bureau Advisory Committee, as the next item of business. The motion passed unanimously.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

The Town Manager announced the ad hoc Ordinance Development and Review Committee will meet on February 26th at 7:30 a.m. to review the draft Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property Ordinance.

2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

The Town Manager reported the proposed Capital Improvement Plan budget will include a request for some funds for an engineering analysis regarding the Four Corners water study which, if approved by the Council, may require approval at a town meeting. Area environmental groups have been invited to the next Four Corner Water and Sewer Advisory Committee meeting. The Town Manager will present information regarding the length of time it will take to identify the best of the three water supply options and the approximate total cost of each option.

3. Town Council Rules of Procedure

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Keane seconded, effective February 22, 2010, to adopt the revised Town Council Rules of Procedure as proposed by the Personnel Committee.

Members discussed possible changes to the rules including reinstating the second opportunity for the public comment; adding the Pledge of Allegiance to the agenda; deletion of the prohibition of votes in a work session; changes to the wording of Rule 5, Decorum; reinstatement of office hours; clarification of reference to the Charter in Rule 6 and the appointment of standing committees by the Mayor.

By consensus a reference to the Mansfield Charter will be added to Rule 6d.

Ms. Keane moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to retain the second opportunity for public comment. The motion to amend passed with all in favor except Haddad, Kochenburger and Moran who were in opposition.

Ms. Keane moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to change Rule 5 to read: "All meeting participants including Councilors, citizens and staff should confine their remarks to the substance of the issue at hand. The Town Council supports the right of a resident to criticize its local government, but this should be done appropriately and responsibly, with civility and discretion. All participants should address their remarks..." The motion to amend failed with Keane, Lindsey, Moran and Paulhus in favor and Haddad, Kochenburger, Ryan and Schaefer opposed.

Ms. Lindsey moved and Ms. Keane seconded to amend the motion by reinstating Rule 10 Council Office Hours and changing the second sentence of the rule to read, "Councilors should participate in the office hours on a rotating basis." The motion to amend passed with all in favor except Ryan and Schaefer who were in opposition.

Ms. Keane moved to amend Rule 5 to read, "All meeting participants including Councilors, citizens and staff should confine their remarks to the substance of the issue at hand. Participants should avoid discussing personalities and not impugn the motive, character or integrity of any individual. The Town Council supports the right of a resident to criticize its local government, but this should be done appropriately and responsibly, with civility and discretion. All participants should address their remarks..." Seconded by Ms. Lindsey the motion passed unanimously.

The motion to adopt the Rules of Procedure, as amended, passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Keane seconded to refer the issues of appointment of standing committees and inclusion of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Personnel Committee. Motion passed unanimously

At this time State Representative Denise Merrill arrived and by consensus the Council agreed to add her remarks to the agenda. Representative Merrill spoke to the very difficult budget year ahead and commented the Town should budget for an amount slightly less than the current state figures. She also expressed her support for a progressive income tax to address the current and future budget shortfalls.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

4. Presentation: Youth Service Bureau Advisory Committee

Youth Service Coordinator Pat Michalak and Social Worker Kathy McNamara presented an overview of the youth services programs. Ms. Michalak introduced participants and partners who participate in the youth service programs and shared their experiences with the Council. The participants included Charles Ausburger a single father raising a daughter, Amber Hoyt a longtime participant in the programs and now an active volunteer and Marianne Barton director of the UConn Psychological Services Clinic and partner to the program.

The Council thanked the participants for their presentation and candor.

5. Community Partnership Grant

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective February 22, 2010, to authorize Mayor Elizabeth Paterson and Town Manager Matthew Hart to sign and submit the Community Partnership grant application.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

6. Political Signs

The Planning and Zoning Commission is reviewing the issue of political signs and as part of that review there will be a public hearing and a mandatory referral to the Town Council. Council members discussed some issues that will need to be addressed including a definition of political signs, allowing or limiting placement on public property depending on use of that property, permitting the placing of advocacy signs versus the placement of event signs and the fact that all organizations would have access to public property.

VII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

As requested the Town Manager will provide a copy of the Commission on Aging Long Range Plan to the Council.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Committee on Committees, reported the Committee has agreed that at this time it would not implement the proposed Board of Ethics Vetting Procedure.

Ms. Moran made the following committee recommendations:

Meg Reich	Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee
Jane Reinhardt	Cemetery Committee
Bruce Clouette	University Town Relations Committee
Lee Terry	Personnel Appeals Board

Denise Houman	Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities
John DeWolf	Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities
Ethan Avery	Parks Advisory Committee
Norma Lomonaco	Parks Advisory Committee
Jason McGarry	Historic District Commission full member

Motion to approve the recommended appointments passed unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Haddad reported the Personnel Committee will be reviewing the proposed Ethics Ordinance, the resolution regarding Open and Transparent Government and the Rules of Procedure referrals.

Mr. Kochenburger reported the ad hoc Ordinance Development and Review Committee will meet on February 26th at 7:30 a.m.

IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

No Reports

X. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

6. Easley re: Holiday donations
7. Legal Notice: Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports
8. Legal Notice: Eastern Highlands Health District Audit Report
9. MBOE Goals and Objectives
10. FY 2010/11 Budget Review Calendar
11. CIRMA re: 2010 CIRMA Annual Meeting
12. Proclamation Request: Girls Scouts
13. Proclamation Request: Peace Corps
14. Proclamation Request: Silver Star Families of America
15. Chronicle "Mansfield may move human services office" – 02-03-10
16. Chronicle "Storrs Center gets another commitment" – 02-03-10
17. Chronicle "Many questions raised about new school plan" – 02-05-10
18. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 02-06-10
19. Chronicle "Editorial: We offer these threads, needles" – 02-08-10
20. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 02-09-10
21. Chronicle "Mansfield seeks fed funding" – 02-09-10
22. Chronicle "Mansfield to celebrate wintertime" – 02-09-10
23. Chronicle "Seniors pleased, human services to stay" – 02-11-10
24. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 02-12-10
25. Hartford Courant "How to act regionally" – 12-29-09
26. Hartford Courant "Merrill to kick off Secretary of the State bid" – 02-14-10
27. Hartford Courant "Legislature's Denise Merrill enters race for..." – 02-16-10

28. Mansfield Today "Horse-drawn carriage rides, 'wacky hats', ..." - 02-10-10
29. Mansfield Today "Town seeks grants to support Four Corners..." – 02-10-10
30. Mansfield Today "Public input invited on work near Eagleville..." – 02-11-10

XI. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Cynara Stites, Hanks Hill Road, stated the Town can only regulate political signs on Town Roads, as the State owns the right of ways on state roads. Ms. Stites asked members to look at her suggestions presented at the February 8th meeting.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, asked the Council to be careful of submitting grants that have a local match.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, requested answers to his questions regarding the STEAP grant.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, expressed her disappointment in communicating with Council members via email.

XII. FUTURE AGENDAS

Policy on communicating Town opinions will be referred to the Committee on Committees with assistance from Mr. Haddad, Mr. Schaefer or Town Manager Matt Hart.

A report on status of hiring at the Senior Center will be provided at a future meeting.

The communication from Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren regarding the personal use of snow plows will be distributed at future meeting.

Mr. Paulhus left the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to recess the meeting and go into executive session regarding sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6)(d)
Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6) (d)

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Ryan, Schaefer

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The Town Council reconvened in regular session. Mr. Kochenburger moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Gregory Haddad, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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